MARVEL 014

FALL OF X

GILLEN
WERNECK
CURIEL

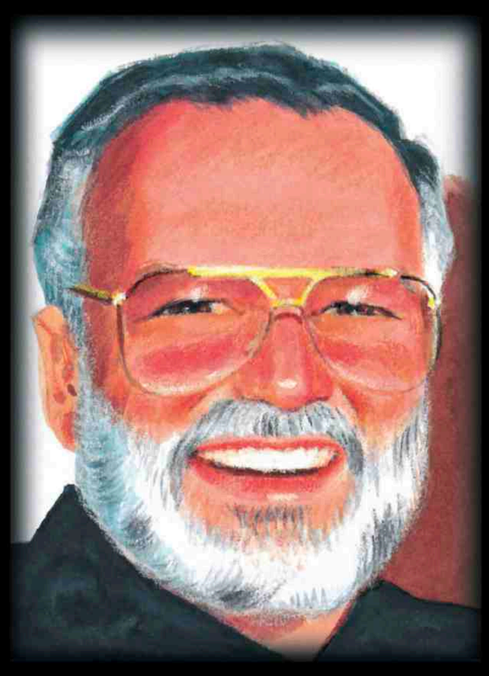
IMMORTAL X-MEN

IMMORTAL X-MEN

MARVEL REMEMBERS

John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.

DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the cover below for the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character included drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson in *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21* and launching the Spider-Man newspaper strip with Stan Lee in 1977. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as anartist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world.That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also anexcellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfatherand a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE

"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

X weeks later.
Krakoa, population: 1.

"Charles.
Listen.

"*If* something
happens at
the gala..."

Is something going to happen, Irene?

...be *sure* you get Mystique out.

By any means necessary.

"It may. It may not. But really?"

"I have said, there is a blankness in my vision ahead.

Would you believe me if I told you?

"I surrender."

"Deliver the terms, Doctor."

We hacked more than just your medicines-- we also hacked your gates. Right now, they all point *off-Earth.*

We will kill no more humans--if you all leave.

This is a cancer surgery, Charles...

...and you are the cancer.

Now make them *walk.*

"Go, my X-Men.

"Mutants of Earth, this is Charles Xavier. You must not resist...

"...you must comply. Walk through the closest gate.

Hope! All of you! Don't resist!

We must GO!

"Be not afraid. All will be made clear, but know that in doing this you are saving many human lives...

"...and perhaps that of your own."

"Our mutant family--everyone who walked through the gates."

I can't reach them--any of them.

"I didn't know they did something to the gates.

"I pushed them into a meat grinder."

ALL DEAD!

And I killed them.

"Charles. Listen.

"If something happens at the gala..."

[fall__of]
[_____X]

[FALL OF X]

[IMMORTAL X-MEN]

NO MORE MUTANTS

Xavier has destroyed mutantkind -- or so it seems as far as he can tell. When the anti-mutant consortium called Orchis attacked the Hellfire Gala, announcing that they had booby-trapped the medicines Krakoa had been giving away and could use them to kill countless humans at the drop of a hat, Xavier thought he had no other option. He capitulated, sending mutantkind on what he thought was a strategic withdrawal, compelling them psychically through the Krakoan gates to their sister planet of Arakko. But when, upon his escape from the gala's abattoir, he reached out with his mind for his people who he'd sent away...he found they were gone.

Now, with the mutants who resisted his push to leave (mostly his personally trained students) fugitives in a world openly and unabashedly seeking to capture and deal with any and all mutants who remain on the planet, Xavier sits in a self-imposed exile and vigil on the island of Krakoa that had once been the great nation he helped found.

1___[CHARLES XAVIER]
2___[SEBASTIAN SHAW]
3___[MOTHER RIGHTEOUS]
4___[SELENE]

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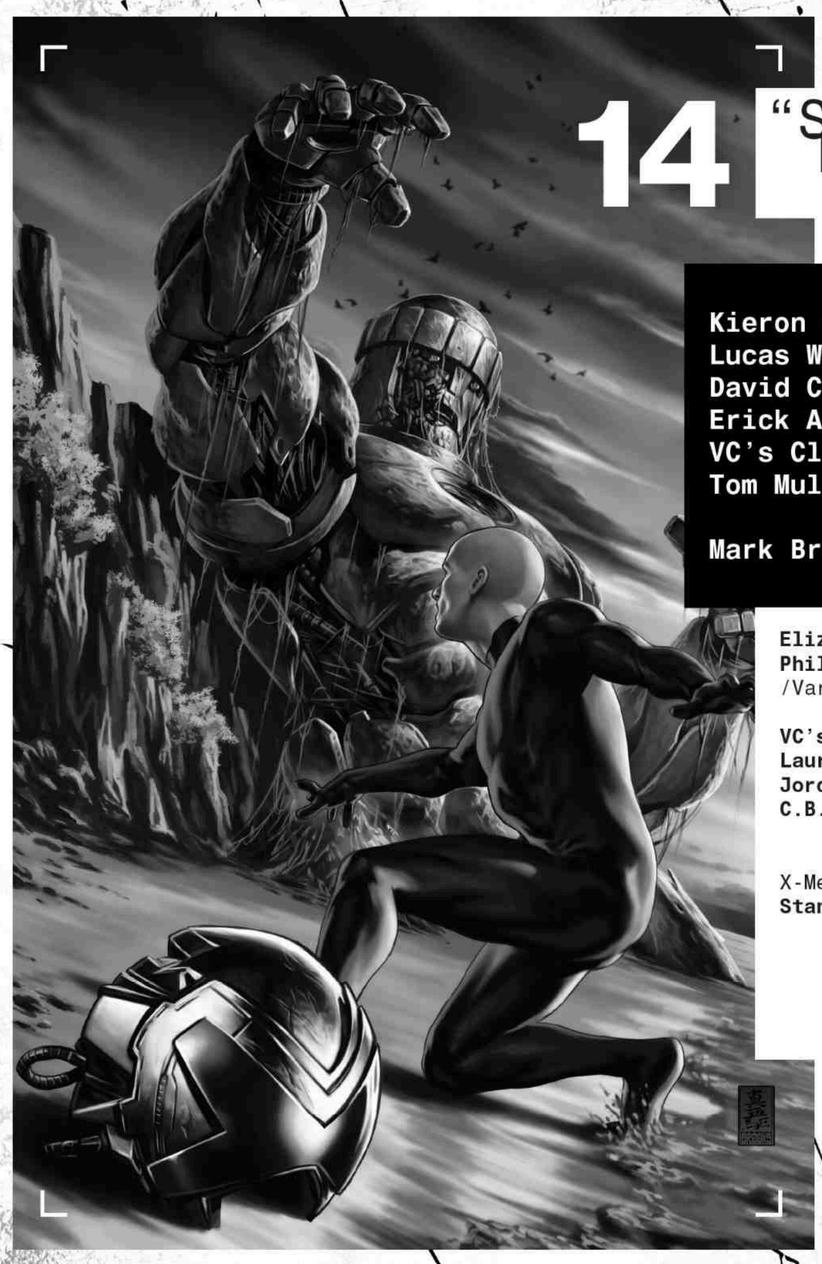


IMMORTAL X-MEN

14

"SYMPATHY FOR THE SCARLET WITCH"

Kieron Gillen/Writer
Lucas Werneck/Artist
David Curiel &
Erick Arciniega/Color Artists
VC's Clayton Cowles/Letterer
Tom Muller & Jay Bowen/Design

Mark Brooks/Cover Artist

Elizabeth Torque;
Phil Noto [Quiet Council]
/Variant Cover Artists

VC's Clayton Cowles/Production
Lauren Amaro/Associate Editor
Jordan D. White/Editor
C.B. Cebulski/Editor in Chief

X-Men created by
Stan Lee & **Jack Kirby**

[Immortal_[0.14]
[fall__of]
[_____X]

The day after the Gala, X weeks earlier.

Very well...

...if my new partners over at Orchis need a show of good faith, they'll have it.

It's just trading in a resource.

Nothing more, nothing else.

ZZZZZZP

There.

No longer a mutant.

Though, to be honest, I was never *really* a mutant.

I just had a mutant gene.

NOW that the nasty preliminaries are done, let's progress to the fun part.

Come on, Tessa. Give me the analysis.

How rich *am* I?

I'm not called "Tessa," sir.

I'm Siobhan.

The amount I'm paying you, New Tessa, you'll be Tessa.

If you're rich enough, the world is ***exactly*** what you say it is.

Now--the analysis! Give it to me!

Sir...

...your funds are unchanged.

How? What happened? I should have *everything.*

Krakoa is *mine.* I *own* Krakoa.

Yes, sir. You own *Krakoa.*

The *island,* not the country's *finances.*

Who has that?

We're trying to ascertain. There're shell companies and...

I'm sorry, sir. I'm *trying.*

Just find out and... Why are you quivering?

Did you think I'd throw you off the building or something?

...Yes?

I'm not a bloody super villain, for @#&%$ sake.

I'm a *businessman...*

"...and I made a &@&% deal."

Sir. You can't go--

Get me a drink for when I'm finished...

"...I'll be in my private room."

MOTHER @#&@&%$ RIGHTEOUS!

GET HERE NOW, YOU LYING &%%&!

Quiet, love. I've still got a banging hangover from the gala after-party.

What can I do for you?

You can give me a *country's worth of funds!* We made a *deal!*

We did. But naive, Shaw, naive.

You acted like you were making a deal with a business-woman.

You made a deal with a *magician.* A *speller.* A *storyteller.* You make a deal in a *story,* and it's never *quite* what you wanted.

Nice doing magic with you.

I will *destroy* you for this!

Oh, you'll try. But know this, Shaw.

You broke the magic circle of your little Quiet Council.

You know what happens when you break a magic circle, my little ducky?

You're in danger.

You have to leave immediately.

Your Hellfire Club membership has been canceled by the new owner.

You are expelled.

Where's that damn whiskey?

I--your membership has--I mean--

Give me the whiskey, or I'll tear your head from your body on the way out.

Sir. We've managed to work out who the new owner is...

...it's Wilson Fisk.

The Kingpin is the new White King.

Shaw, you worm of a man.

You are a disappointment.

Where are you, Emma? If you're on Earth, you're going to get people killed.

You know the new rules.

Of course. I'm somewhere safe. I just *had* to talk.

You went for the short trade rather than the long one.

You left oh-so-much money on the table.

You could have been rich. *Truly* rich.

Instead-- scrapings from *their* table.

I did it for the children.

You did it for *cents.*

Sir. Are you okay? I was concerned.

Do you need medical assistance? I can--

It's nothing. An old, annoying ailment. Still--it serves as a useful reminder.

Do you know what my super-power actually is, New Tessa?

You could absorb energy and turn it into power, sir?

No. My super-power is that I can turn *cents* into *billions.*

Start arranging meetings.

I want to begin the exploitation of Krakoa *immediately.*

[~~Hellfire___Ltd~~]
[Shaw_____Ind]

THE EXPLOITATION OF KRAKOA: SHAW INDUSTRIES OVERVIEW

STAGE 0

We ensure that Krakoa is ours. This means...

- Ensure the Stark Sentinel Perimeter is secure. No one in and no one out, unless we know.
- Ensure Orchis understand that Krakoa is sole property of Shaw Industries. Back off.
- Ensure there are no traps or countermeasures. They're sneaky. Make defensible beachheads.

STAGE 1

From the secure bases, build exploitation sites of surface resources -- primarily salvage of anything that isn't nailed down. Then construct the heavy equipment needed for stage 2.

Priority: The External Gate must be secured first. Selene wants it. We keep Selene happy.

STAGE 2

Krakoa is a living island and is currently in semi-hibernation. We need to ensure that remains so. With Doug gone, his communication systems need to be compromised.

Once we are sure it will stay asleep, we start mining and exploring underground labs. At this point, we'll gain whoever is left in the Pit. We'll see what Orchis will pay for Sinister.

If it's not enough, kill him on principle. $#@& the snot.

STAGE 3

We can attempt to control the sleeping giant directly. When we have physiological control of Krakoa, we can use it as a cornucopia -- a bio-engine making whatever we wish. Anything Forge can do, I can do for profit.

Only problem: Krakoa needs life force to do what it does. We can find sacrifices easily. Frankly, a death or so a month isn't that bad for a factory the scale of Krakoa.

X weeks later.

New Tessa, explain to me why we still haven't finished stage one of the exploitation process.

Do I have to take direct control of the operations myself?

Sir, we're not at stage one.

We're at stage *zero.* We have no presence on Krakoa.

Oh god, Shaw. This is an embarrassment.

You! The one at the back! The one with the strong pulse!

Make excuses!

There're monsters there, Mistress Selene. Everyone we've sent has asked to be repositioned.

Oh god, this is what happens when you hire anti-mutant people.

Not monsters. *Mutants.* And they are *gone.*

I know what I mean.

Charles? I know you're there.

I know you can hear me.

You can't keep ignoring me.

I'm not going to say where I am. We both know what happens if anyone is listening. Lots of dead humans is not good. But...

...I'm *worried.*

Me. *Emma Frost.*

I'm worried about *you.*

I know you think they're all dead, but we can't be sure. Just because you can't sense them. I--

Yes, I know how that sounds. You have Cerebro and that overdeveloped mind of yours but...

I'm reaching out to Strange. Reed. T'Challa. I...

Don't give up, Charles.

We don't *know for sure.*

Our children are dead.

Leave me be, Emma.

Charles, I--

Sssk--

I'm scared. Mutants here, all... mutating.

Think of the money.

My toenail is weird. Maybe I'm a mutant. I hope I'm not. My mom hates mutants, and--

Monsters? How bad can they be?

This is quite pretty actually. Glad we own it now.

I wonder if he likes me? That was a hot look.

I hope there's someone to shoot. I--

I tried to let go, but in the end, I couldn't.

They forced my hand, yes, but I still did it...

...and now my people are dead.

It's too late to let go now. I will hold on to this rock as it sinks.

But as long as I live, I will not let their memory be desecrated by those who are bathed in blood.

I would rather the air was torn from their lungs than they smell the flowers growing on this mutant grave.

No more.

No more.

No more.

Nowhere, no-when.

Oh god. I hurt. You didn't have to push us so hard, you...

Where am I?

Where are *we?*

We are in the desert.

NO!

I can't see. I can't see...

Destiny, calm down!

You're blind, remember? Of *course* you can't see!

No, I can't see *the future.* There is nothing but a white space.

Wait...

Is Raven here?

Where is my wife?

I tried to save her. She resisted, but...

Raven? Where are you? Oh god, what happened, what--?

Destiny. You are the ice-cold @&%#%.

I *liked* that. Pull it together.

There are 250,000 minds here.

None of them are Mystique. Or the rest of the Five, for that matter.

It's the whole population of Krakoa. The ones Xavier forced to walk through the portals.

They were meant to arrive on Arakko.

Instead... we came here.

To the desert.

We have a city full of people. Most of them have no useful mutant powers.

We have no food. No water.

Some of us are wearing @#$% formal wear.

What are we going to do?

Listen to me, mutants!

We will survive the desert, as I did so long ago. We will be transformed, like I was.

We are mutant pilgrims.

I will lead you to the promised land.

Trust me.

I have seen this in a vision, long, long ago.

We are the people of Krakoa.

We only have each other. We have only *ever* had each other.

And whether we live or die, we will live and die together.

This way.

Follow me.

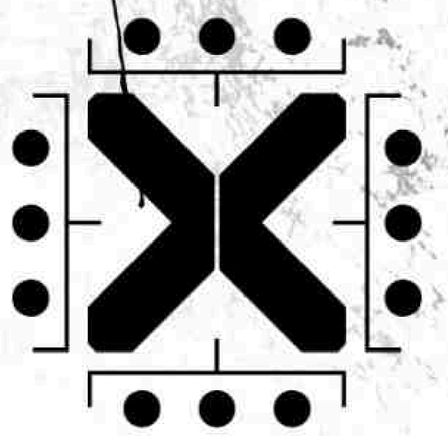
What is this way, Exodus?

A promised land.

Do you know this? Truly?

Absolutely not...

...but I have faith.



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“The whole mutant people were cast out from Krakoa and came to the desert. In the desert, the whole community grumbled against Exodus and Hope. The mutants said to them, ‘If only we had died by Orchis’ hand! In Krakoa, we sat around pots of plenty and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.’”

-- *THE BOOK OF EXODUS*
(BENNET DU PARIS TRANSLATION)

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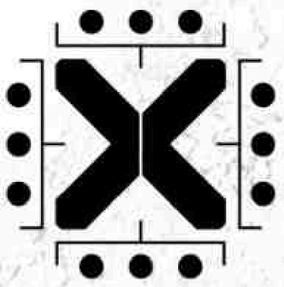

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KRAKOA is for all MUTANTS

[fall_of]
[_____X]

FOLLOW THE FALL:

CHILDREN OF THE VAULT #1:

GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE:
WEAPONS OF VENGEANCE ALPHA #1:

IMMORTAL X-MEN #14:

ALPHA FLIGHT #1:

DARK X-MEN #1:

GHOST RIDER #17:

UNCANNY AVENGERS #1:

X-MEN RED #14:

DEADPOOL #10:

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #9:

JEAN GREY #1:

REALM OF X #1:

X-FORCE #43:

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[koa_[0.0]…]

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5 YEARS EXPERIENCE

From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH